

Delivering climate action

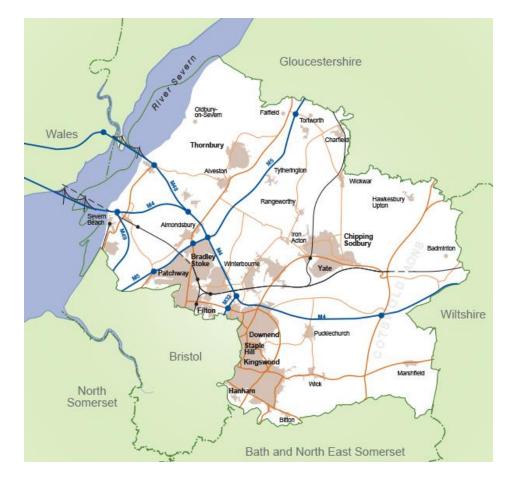
Developing a Local Authority Plant Biosecurity Policy

- Why
- What are the changes
- Raising the profile

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Why was a plant biosecurity policy needed?





- Climate and Nature Emergency declared in July 2019
- Green Infrastructure Strategy 2021
- Increased awareness of invasive and non-native plants
- Costly works
- Volunteer time



Why was a plant biosecurity policy needed?

- Need for clear information and processes
- Public queries
- Raise awareness •





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Plant Biosecurity Policy Biosecurity refers to the set of precautions for the prevention of introduction and spread of

biosecurity refers to the set or precautions for the prevention or introduction and spread on harmful organisms and non-native species (NNS). This includes non-native invasive plant species, pests, pathogens, injurious weeds, and diseases.

Since the early 2000's there has been an increase in the number of non-native species. Since me early 2000 s mere has been an increase in the number or non-narive species. These are a major cause for biodiversity loss and species extinction, affecting the health of our habitats and causing significant changes to ecosystems and landscapes.

This biosecurity policy outlines South Gloucestershire Council's response to reduce the This procedurity poincy outpines source on our counceries interview to require the spread of non-native invasive plant species, injurious weeds and plant diseases across open

spaces owned or managed by South Gloucestershire Council.

To prevent the spread of non-native plants and injurious weeds. To build awareness of the risks from pests and diseases and knowledge of how to reduce those risks. To introduce a Objectives

Three priority objectives to prevent spread of non-native plants and injur

1. Understand 8. t.		plants a	and injurious weeds
Inderstand & detect The council will have beet practice at the core of its practice at the same of the its the council will mable training of saft and public on invasive non-native species, and plant diseases. Council saft frained on invasive species communication comparise based on the government's be plant vise information Prevent the	2. Prevent: The council will identify and monitor the spread of non- nature invasive plants, inpluotus weeks and plant induces weeks and plant induces weeks and plant induces weeks and plant purchasing will be documented and reviewed annually Pollow the British standard' BS8545.2014 standard' BS854	jurious	Markets A. Respond: The council will act to prevent the spread and control events and injuricus weeks InNS assessed and controlled UK grown plants and seeds will be prioritised UK grown plants and seeds will be prioritised The council will no nitroduce any plants on Schedule 90 the Wildiffe and Countryside Act When working in water the Government's Check- Clean-Dry campaign wweds.
			aangios.gov.uk

Summary of policy

- Details the need for biosecurity legislation and duties
- Objectives:
 - 1. Understand and detect
 - 2. Prevent
 - 3. Respond
- Established campaigns:
 - <u>Check Clean Dry</u> water based biosecurity
 - <u>Be Plantwise</u> land based biosecurity
- Achievable and relevant
- Focussed on plant biosecurity on land owned or managed by SGC

Diant Bios	south Gouesternin consel Delivering Torver	
December 2022		What can I do to help? Image: Note: The environment and activities you enjoy by keeping your kit free of invasive plants and animals, whenever you leave the water remember to:
		Check Check Check your equipment, boat, and clothing after leaving the water for mud, aquatic animals or plant material. Remove anything you find and leave it at the site. Clean Clean everything thoroughly as soon as you can, paying attention to areas that are damp or hard to access. Use hot water if possible.
	If your plants	Dry Dry everything for as long as you can before using elsewhere as some invasive plants and animals can survive for over two weeks in damp conditions.
SGC	<text><text></text></text>	

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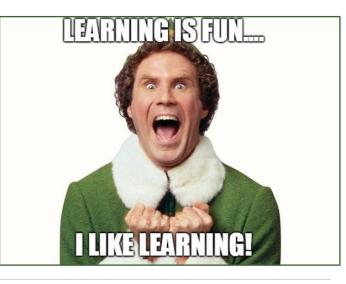
How has the policy changed council working practices?

Practical actions:

- Internal Action Plan with agreed clear actions
- Staff training via e-modules:
 - Non-native species secretariat e-learning
 - Forestry Commission
- Mapping and recording of some species
- Clear guidance for the public
- Updates on biosecurity issues e.g. GB non-native species secretariat.



Plant Biosecurity Policy South Gloucestenshire Council Internal Action Plan				To ide	tive two: <u>Ensured</u> nitly and monitor the spread of d covered or compliant by South	non-native invasive plants and injurious weeds Geocestambies Council.		Γ		Publicity provided to all council staff Mends proups and Toem and Plenish Councils porticipating in the Load Nature Adion Plan scheme by end 2022.
This assiss plan details the steps identified to implement the South Obsceetenhise Council Real Biosecutty Picks, The action plan all improve plant biosecutty through histologing the legisland frammenilia plant equations, syntaxia aveils and plant framewas survise spare sparses menil or managed by the sourcel. Distortion on: (Monitorization and debat)			2.1	Monitor plant purchasing	Action Documentation will be kept for the purchasing or plants by nouncil staff and associated workers including volumiteers and contractors. Available via the ocurual purchasing system. Annual review of documentation.	1		Compositing and disposal of waste to provent spread of investive non-native and injurious plants	Where possible, By typing should be removed as quickly as possible and material will be predect as conteminated wester being stoposed of appropriately.	
							2.5	5 Import only acreamed acil	Details on the supplier and confirmation on the source(s) of sol material soll be obtained	
Va m iose i ta	II engage with partners and o outry and promate beat practi- operations acting upon existing Onal Raise awareness of non-	on space users to develop evaneness of or. The ocurroll will have best practice at the oces g finants and keep informed of new <u>Execute</u> Action Training mode evaluable for council staft.		22	British standard when planning, designing,	All relevant council staff to be aware of and follow the British standard 'B20545'.2014 Trees: Team carry to independence in the landscape-recommendations'				and strend by the ocurrol. End should be the from melanis plantic, word, glass, herman, paper and odours associated with contaminated soils as specified in BS 19822-1994 – Specification for toposit.
	native investive plants	 volucteurs and public by end of 2022 Tractical associations instands. Non-Native Species Beardinated (NHS3) section tracing, some specification and orders tracing, some specification of the section of the section of the section of the section of the section of the section of the volucteors. 2552 Scillarity (Institutivesenties Int) 			Induding Japanese knotweet	Report the presence of inveative non-native plants on <u>DECER</u> (Brote Regional Environmental Records Centre)				
		 Biosecurity e-learning package on true posts and diseases. <u>Ecosity</u> <u>Commission Digital Learning</u> Al pourses (forestruelearning on uit) 		invasi	is non-native plants and injurio	It to prevent the spread and introduction of us weeds on council owned or occupied tand. Action				
- 1	Share information on the public South Gloucestershire Council metalla	Lisk to the <u>"be plant was</u> " and " <u>Dwok Owen</u> <u>by</u> government communication campaign by and of 2022.	p		Reduce introduction of investive non-radius earling/indica plants. Plant paruhawing is the invest significant particular plants and introduction of non-native monetic plants. Prevent the spread of investive non-native and injurious plants.	 prior/Box purchasing plants grown in UK hom January 2023 stop the use of imported seed by 2023 not introduce plants on Schedule 8 of the Weldfek & Countrystee Act (Appendix then in the Plant Biosecurity Policy) 				
- 1	liperi speces	An article published in volunteers' newsletter and council's Streatcare newsletter to advise of beat practice and identification information by end 2022.								
. 1	Reporting system to alert staff when issues arise and training for how to react to these.	Reporting system in place by end of 2022.				Evenues evenues council resources to essens opportunities for removing existing spaciments where there is a high risk of spread by end of 2023, include removal information in training.				
					revent spread of plants in qualic environments	When working in water, achieve to the povernment's Check Clean Dry campaign.				



Council —— Delivering climate action

How has the policy changed council working practices?





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Links within the Council:

- Cross cutting procurement, grounds, landscape design and planning staff, volunteers and town and parish councils
- Clear process 'decision tree' for assessment
- Improved knowledge, awareness and action
- Built into other policies e.g. Procurement, Ragwort, Pesticide and Pollinator Policies.

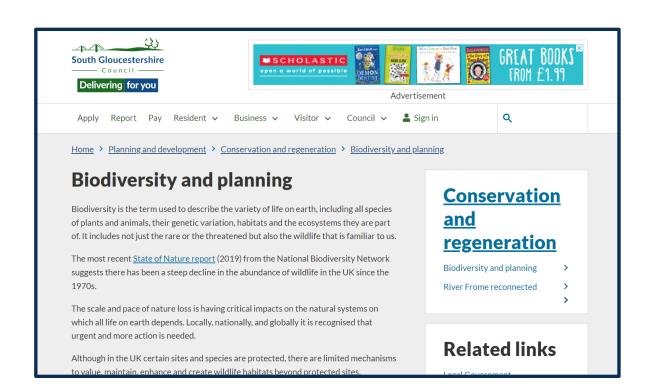


Raising the profile of plant biosecurity both internally and externally



• Engaging the right people

- Sending it far and wide
- Make it relevant to individuals
- Integrate into strategies and policies
- Part of induction training
- Working with partners



Next steps





Integrate e-modules into staff training



Further public engagement – on site, social media, key stakeholders, link with national campaigns



Work with trusted partners



Expanding monitoring on our open spaces



Links to future projects e.g. work and potential policy is being scoped with partners regarding invasive species such as mink



Thank you

Caroline Gaze



www.southglos.gov.uk